

REMARKS

By this Amendment, the claims are amended merely to clarify the recited subject matter and Figures 1-4 are amended in conformance with suggestions included in the outstanding Office Action. Claims 1-21 are pending.

Attached please find the requested Certified Copy of the Finnish Priority document (requested in the outstanding Office Action because a copy had apparently not been forwarded by the International Bureau).

The Office Action objected to claims 1, 5, 9, 10-11 and 14-16 because of specified optional wording. Applicants submit that the amended claims are in the proper format.

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Johnson et al. (U.S. 6,097,772). Attached please find an executed Declaration Under Rule 131 (with supporting documentary evidence) antedating the prior art reference of Johnson et al. by establishing a conception date earlier than Johnson et al.'s filing date of November 24, 1997 and Applicants' due diligence during the period just prior to that date until the filing of the Finnish patent application. Because Johnson et al. is no longer prior art as a result of the documents submitted herewith, the rejection is traversed. Claims 1-21 are allowable.

All prior art rejections having been traversed, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for immediate allowance and requests that a Notice be issued to that effect. If anything remains necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

CHRISTINE H. MCCARTHY
Reg. No. 41844
Tel. No. (703) 905-2143
Fax No. (703) 905-2500

Date: November 8, 2004
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000